

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4 and 7-10 are cancelled.

Claim 1 remains active.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate Claim 11.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 1-8 as being unpatentable over EP1103564 or EP 1371664 or Gaiger in view of Marastoni and Di modugno is respectfully traversed, because the references do not describe or suggest all of the features of the present claims.

In particular, the cited references do not describe a peptide homodimer of the peptide SEQ ID NO:44. Indeed, this peptide homodimer induces CTL *in vivo* in the HLA-A24 restricted manner (Test Example 1). Further, CTL induced by this peptide homodimer is cross-reactive with the natural type peptide monomer and is highly stable compared to the corresponding monomer in the blood (see previously submitted Rule 132 Declaration). That this specific homodimer as defined in the claims had these properties was not reasonably predictable and, indeed surprising to the Applicants.

Di Mondungo describes that some peptide monomers and homodimers bind HLA-A 2.1 and they could induce CTL. However, Di Mondungo is silent about the peptide dimer that can induce CTL in the HLA-A24 restricted manner nor does Di Mondungo suggest a variant peptide which can induce CTL that is cross-reactive to a natural peptide. That EP '664 cited in this combination rejection describes a peptide does not diminish the fact that the combination of art provides no indication for the surprising properties that the Applicants have discovered for the specific homodimer defined in the claims.

Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

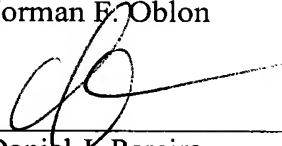
Application No. 10/541,821

Reply to Office Action dated February 21, 2008 and the Advisory Action of September 29, 2008

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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